

**To:** CN=Mahri Lowinger/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]  
**Cc:** "Aaron Wernham" [aawernham@pol.net]; N=Dianne Soderlund/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;emerson@ecr.gov;fleek.adrienne@epa.gov;palmer@ecr.gov[]; merson@ecr.gov;fleek.adrienne@epa.gov;palmer@ecr.gov[]; leek.adrienne@epa.gov;palmer@ecr.gov[]; almer@ecr.gov[]  
**Bcc:** []  
**From:** CN=Tami Fordham/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Thur 6/12/2008 6:20:44 PM  
**Subject:** RE: possible role for IECR?  
[Tami Fordham](#)  
[palmer@ecr.gov](mailto:palmer@ecr.gov)  
[www.ecr.gov](http://www.ecr.gov)

We had agreed to do the meeting at 11am AST, if everyone is still available I will open the line at 11am AST.

Thanks -  
Tami

Mahri Lowinger/R10/USEPA/US  
06/12/2008 10:18 AM  
To "Aaron Wernham" <aawernham@pol.net>  
cc aawernham@pol.net, Dianne Soderlund/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, emerson@ecr.gov, palmer@ecr.gov, Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, fleek.adrienne@epa.gov  
Subject RE: possible role for IECR?

Hi Aaron,

I think we're on at 11 am. I've been out sick most of this week, but the latest I heard was that we were still on at 11.

For teleconference [REDACTED] code [REDACTED]

I have not seen Tami this week. I was out sick and I think she's in a meeting right now.

Mahri

~~~~~  
Mahri Lowinger - Tribal Coordinator  
Tribal Trust & Assistance Unit  
US EPA - Alaska Operations Office  
222 West 7th Ave. Box 19  
Anchorage, AK 99513  
phone: (907) 271-6334  
fax: (907) 271-6340  
toll free: 1-800-781-0983  
[lowinger.mahri@epa.gov](mailto:lowinger.mahri@epa.gov)  
~~~~~

"Aaron Wernham" <aawernham@pol.net>

06/12/2008 10:13 AM

To palmer@ecr.gov, aawernham@pol.net, Mahri Lowinger/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

cc Dianne Soderlund/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, emerson@ecr.gov, Tami

Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Subject RE: possible role for IECR?

Sarah, Kirk, and I are on the conference line, but it hasn't been activated: Marhi and Tami -- are you still available for this call? Call me at Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

On Wed, June 4, 2008 7:23 pm EDT, Sarah Palmer wrote:

Aaron,

That time works for Kirk and me.Â

I look forward to the call.

Best,  
Sarah

Sarah Palmer  
Senior Program Manager  
U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution  
130 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701  
Direct Telephone: 520.901.8556 Fax: 520.901.8557 Cell: 520.940.3857  
Email: palmer@ecr.gov Website:  
www.ecr.gov

From: Aaron Wernham  
[mailto:aawernham@pol.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 3:44 PM  
To: Lowinger.Mahri@epamail.epa.gov; aawernham@pol.net  
Cc: aawernham@pol.net; soderlund.dianne@epa.gov; Kirk Emerson; Sarah Palmer; fordham.tami@epamail.epa.gov  
Subject: RE: possible role for IECR?

Sarah, Kirk, and EPA,  
I have spoken with Marhi and Tami at EPA -- it sounds as if Thursday, 6/12, at 11:00 PDT/10:00 AST will work for us. Some of the larger EPA group may not be able to make it: I assume that if the first conversation is fruitful, there may be interest in another call at some point in the future.

So, if that time works for Sarah and Kirk, lets confirm for 6/12. EPA has kindly supplied a teleconference number:

Passcode: [REDACTED]

Let me know if there are any problems.

Thanks, everyone,

Aaron

> On Wed, June 4, 2008 1:17 pm EDT, Lowinger.Mahri@epamail.epa.gov wrote:  
>  
>  
> I'm available next Thursday, June 12, but I'm not working on Friday,  
> June 13.  
>  
> ~~~~~  
> Mahri Lowinger - Tribal Coordinator  
> Tribal Trust & Assistance Unit  
> US EPA - Alaska Operations Office  
> 222 West 7th Ave. Box 19  
> Anchorage, AK 99513  
> phone: (907) 271-6334  
> fax: (907) 271-6340  
> toll free: 1-800-781-0983  
> lowinger.mahri@epa.gov  
> ~~~~~  
>  
>  
>  
> "Aaron Wernham"  
> To  
> palmer@ecr.gov,



> good for  
> Kirk. Friday June 13 appears open for both of us.  
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> Ãfâ€š Hope this helps.Ãfâ€š Aaron thanks for herding the cats!  
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> Sarah  
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From: Aaron Wernham [mailto:aawernham@pol.net]  
>  
> Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 5:15 PM  
> To: Fordham.Tami@epamail.epa.gov; aawernham@pol.net  
> Cc: aawernham@pol.net; soderlund.dianne@epa.gov; Kirk Emerson;  
> lowinger.mahri@epa.gov; Sarah Palmer  
> Subject: RE: possible role for IECR?  
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> I would be free on 6/9 after 12:30 Alaska time, or pretty much any time  
> on 6/10  
> and 6/11. I know Kirk and Sarah and IECR  
> have pretty packed schedules: Kirk and Sarah -- any time next  
> week?  
>  
> Thanks, all,  
>  
> Aaron  
>  
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>  
> > On Tue, June 3, 2008 8:02 pm EDT, Fordham.Tami@epamail.epa.gov wrote:  
  
> >  
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>> I presume you mean Thursday then?  
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>> Kirk  
>> Emerson, Ph.D.  
>> Director, U.S. Institute for  
>> Environmental Conflict Resolution  
>> Morris K.  
>> Udall Foundation  
>> 130 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701  
>> VOICE 520-901-8510 FAX 520-901-8511  
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>> emerson@ecr.gov www.ecr.gov  
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>> [IMAGE REMOVED]  
>> Join us for the 5th National ECR2008 Conference!  
>> May 20-22, 2008 at Doubletree Tucson Reid Park in Tucson, AZ  
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>> For more information, visit our website at www.ecr.gov  
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From: Aaron Wernham  
>> [mailto:aawernham@pol.net]  
>> Sent: Monday, June 02, 2008 5:17 PM  
>> To: Kirk Emerson; aawernham@pol.net  
>> Cc: Sarah Palmer; Fordham.tami@epa.gov; lowinger.mahri@epa.gov;  
>> soderlund.dianne@epa.gov  
>> Subject: RE: possible role for IECR?  
>>

> > Kirk and Sarah,  
> > Thank you. I am replying with a cc to EPA staff that may want to call

> in

> >

> > as well. I am free all afternoon. If it works for everyone else,

> > how about 2:00 PM PST, or 1:00 PM Alaska time? If you are able to get

 $\succ a$ 

> > conference line easily, that would be great. If not, can anyone at

> EPA?

> >

> > Thanks, all,

>>

> > Aaron

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> > On Mon, June 2, 2008 5:04 pm EDT, Kirk Emerson wrote:

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> > Aaron

> > A f A E' A, A c A f A c A c â, ¬ A j A, A ¬ A f A c A c â ∈ S A ¬ A... â ∈ We are available for a conference call after 1:30  
Tucson

> > time (Pacific time essentially) on Thursday or Friday. Let me know

> what

> > would



> > work for the EPA staff. If you need a conference call-in number, we  
> > would be  
> > glad to arrange that.

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> > Kirk

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> > Kirk

> > Emerson, Ph.D.

> > Director, U.S. Institute for

> > Environmental Conflict

> > Resolution

> >

> > Morris K.

> > Udall Foundation

> > 130 South Scott Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

> > VOICE 520-901-8510 FAX 520-901-8511

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> > emerson@ecr.gov www.ecr.gov

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 > > Dear Kirk,  
 > > Dinah warned me that you were out of the office, and very busy:  
 > thanks  
 >  
 > > for  
 > > agreeing to make some time! I am free all day on Thursday and Friday  
 > of  
 > > this week. If either of those days works for you, please just let me  
 > > know  
 > > the time and best number to call. If not, let me know a couple of  
 > > alternate times, and I will call you. If you don't have any  
 > objection,  
 > I  
 > >  
 > > might invite a couple EPA staff to call in as well (in which case,  
 > maybe  
 > > we  
 > > need a conference line?) -- they are very interested to talk this  
 > > situation  
 > > over as well.  
 > >  
 > > I look forward to talking with both of you soon. Below, I have given  
 > an  
 > > overview of some of the issues that I am hoping we might be able to  
 > > address.  
 > >  
 > > Sincerely,  
 > >  
 > > Aaron Wernham, MD, MS  
 > >  
 > >  
 > > The Mines:  
 > > There are two large mines currently in serious exploration (pre-NEPA)  
  
 > in  
 > > SW  
 > > Alaska -- the Pebble Mine and Donlin Creek Mine. Both would be  
 > immense  
 >  
 > > open pit mines -- Pebble would actually involve construction of the  
 > > world's  
 > > largest earthen dam to contain tailings. Donlin is at the headwaters  
 > of  
 > > the Kuskokwim river, upstream from ~30 villages. All told,  
 > considering  
 >  
 > > downstream subsistence effects as well as regional economic effects,

> > these two  
 > > mines will have fairly direct impacts on something like 70 villages  
 > > (each a  
 > > separate federally recognized tribe).  
 > >  
 > > The Political Setting:  
 > > I'm sure you are both familiar with the Alaska Native Claims  
 > Settlement  
 > > Act  
 > > (ANCSA), which created the unique political situation in Alaska. As a  
  
 > > brief overview, ANCSA created a system of regional and village  
 > > corporations to  
 > > receive the land and financial claims settlements: tribes, therefore,  
  
 > do  
 > > not  
 > > have true jurisdiction over most lands in Alaska, nor do they have a  
 > > strong  
 > > economic base. Under this system, there is an complex and fragmented  
 > > system of political representation, land management authority, and  
 > > financial  
 > > resources:  
 > > -Tribal governments in each village, generally with very little  
 source  
 >  
 > > of  
 > > income  
 > > -Village for-profit corporations in many villages  
 > > -Regional for-profit corporations (Calista and Bristol Bay Native  
 > > Corporation  
 > > are the relevant ones for these mines -- both are developing business  
  
 > > partnerships with the mining companies)  
 > > -Regional non-profit corporations (AVCP and Bristol Bay Native  
 > > Association)  
 > > -Regional health corporations  
 > >  
 > > Compounding this situation, many of the for-profit corporations do  
 not  
 >  
 > > enroll  
 > > new tribal members; For example, only those born before ~ 1972 are  
 > > eligible to  
 > > be shareholders in Calista corporation.  
 > >  
 > > Consequently, at baseline, it has proven extraordinarily difficult  
 for  
 >  
 > > communities to speak with a unified voice on any issue.  
 > >  
 > > The Problem:  
 > > Tribes in these regions are now trying to figure out how to deal with  
  
 > > the  
 > > mining

> > proposals. To date, much of the discourse has focused on lining  
 > > up as "pro or anti-mining." Villages are becoming terribly  
 > > polarized as a result.  
 > >  
 > > I recently helped organize a 2-day NEPA and public health training  
 for  
 >  
 > > the  
 > > tribes. It was an amazing experience -- over 60 elders and tribal  
 > > leaders  
 > > from the region attended. Our objective was the presentation of  
 > > strategies for effective participation in the mine permitting process  
  
 > --  
 > > so  
 > > that if mining goes ahead, tribes will help shape the alternatives  
 > > considered,  
 > > the environmental controls, monitoring strategies, economic inputs to  
  
 > > their communities, etc. Yet there was such a strong focus among  
 > > attendees  
 > > on whether or not mining should be allowed that people weren't able  
 > > to develop a more cohesive vision for how to participate and  
 > collaborate  
 > >  
 > > during the mine permitting process. People were respectful, but  
 > > there is an undercurrent of mistrust. There have been accusations in  
 > the  
 > >  
 > > Pebble region that the mine is bribing native leaders; in the Donlin  
 > > region,  
 > > people  
 > > have accused Calista of making deals without consulting shareholders,  
  
 > > and of  
 > > refusing to share details on the nature of the agreements. On the  
 > other  
 > > side,  
 > > there were a lot of concerns expressed about this meeting by  
 > pro-mining  
 > > communities, who accused Alaska Inter-Tribal Council of excluding  
 > them.  
 > >  
 > > This disunity, contention, and political division are impacts by  
 > > themselves, for communities that share much heritage, tradition, and  
 > > family  
 > > relationships. Perhaps even more importantly, though, this division  
 > will  
 > >  
 > > prevent effective participation in the mine permitting process. Both  
 > pro  
 > >  
 > > and anti-mining communities share much common ground: they are  
 > > subsistence  
 > > communities, and most people in the region would probably agree that  
 > > preserving









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> >  
> > Kirk  
> > Emerson, Ph.D.  
> > Director, U.S. Institute for  
> > Environmental Conflict  
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> > emerson@ecr.gov www.ecr.gov  
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> > Join us for the 5th  
> > National ECR2008  
> > Conference!  
> > May 20-22, 2008 at  
> > Doubletree Tucson Reid  
> > Park in Tucson, AZ  
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> > Hope

> > the conference went splendidly.



> > Dinah

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> > Aaron Wernham, MD, MS

> > Alaska Inter-Tribal Council

> > Fellow, Columbia University Center on Medicine as a Profession

> > 2050 Cripple Creek Rd.

> > Fairbanks, AK 99709

> > Office: (907) 451-4441

> > Home: (907) 451-0661

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